

United States Department of State
The Secretary of State's Register of Culturally Significant Property 2020



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United States Department of State

*The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally Significant Property 2020*

CULTURAL  HERITAGE

Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations
Washington, D.C.

Table of Contents



Message from the Secretary.....	IV
The Secretary of State's Register of Culturally Significant Property.....	1
 ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT <i>Former U.S. Consulate General (Retired)</i>	2
ALGIERS, ALGERIA <i>U.S. Embassy Algiers Ambassador's Residence Villa Montfeld</i>	4
ATHENS, GREECE <i>U.S. Embassy Athens Chancery</i>	6
BAGUIO, THE PHILIPPINES <i>U.S. Embassy Manila Ambassador's Summer Residence</i>	8
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM <i>U.S. Embassy Brussels NATO Ambassador's Residence Truman Hall</i>	10
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY <i>U.S. Embassy Budapest Chancery</i>	12
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA <i>U.S. Embassy Buenos Aires Ambassador's Residence Palacio Bosch</i>	14
CASABLANCA, MOROCCO <i>U.S. Consulate General Casablanca Consul's Residence Villa Mirador</i>	16
CURAÇAO, DUTCH CARIBBEAN <i>U.S. Consulate General Curaçao Consul's Residence Roosevelt House</i>	18
DUBLIN, IRELAND <i>U.S. Embassy Dublin Ambassador's Residence Chief Secretary's Lodge</i>	20
DUBLIN, IRELAND <i>U.S. Embassy Dublin Chancery</i>	22
FLORENCE, ITALY <i>U.S. Consulate General Florence Palazzo Canevaro</i>	24
HANOI, VIETNAM <i>U.S. Embassy Hanoi Ambassador's Residence</i>	26
HELSINKI, FINLAND <i>U.S. Embassy Helsinki Ambassador's Residence</i>	28
HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM <i>U.S. Consulate General Ho Chi Minh City Former U.S. Embassy Saigon Site</i>	30
ISTANBUL, TURKEY <i>Former U.S. Consulate General Palazzo Corpi</i>	32
LIMA, PERÚ <i>U.S. Embassy Lima Ambassador's Residence</i>	34
LISBON, PORTUGAL <i>U.S. Embassy Lisbon Ambassador's Residence Casa Carlucci</i>	36

LONDON, ENGLAND	<i>U.S. Embassy London Ambassador's Residence Winfield House</i>	38
MADRID, SPAIN	<i>U.S. Embassy Madrid Deputy Chief of Mission Residence Byne House</i>	40
MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES	<i>U.S. Embassy Manila Chancery</i>	42
MOSCOW, RUSSIA	<i>U.S. Embassy Moscow Ambassador's Residence Spaso House</i>	44
NEW DELHI, INDIA	<i>U.S. Embassy New Delhi Chancery</i>	46
NEW DELHI, INDIA	<i>U.S. Embassy New Delhi Ambassador's Residence Roosevelt House</i>	48
OSLO, NORWAY	<i>U.S. Embassy Oslo Ambassador's Residence Villa Otium</i>	50
PARIS, FRANCE	<i>George C. Marshall Center Hôtel de Talleyrand</i>	52
PARIS, FRANCE	<i>U.S. Embassy Paris Ambassador's Residence Hôtel Rothschild</i>	54
PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC	<i>U.S. Embassy Prague Chancery Schönborn Palace</i>	56
PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC	<i>U.S. Embassy Prague Ambassador's Residence Villa Petschek</i>	58
ROME, ITALY	<i>U.S. Embassy Rome Chancery Palazzo Margherita and Twin Villas</i>	60
ROME, ITALY	<i>U.S. Embassy Rome Ambassador's Residence Villa Taverna</i>	62
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA	<i>Seoul Old American Legation Site</i>	64
STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN	<i>U.S. Embassy Stockholm Ambassador's Residence Villa Åkerlund</i>	66
TANGIER, MOROCCO	<i>Tangier Old Legation</i>	68
TIRANA, ALBANIA	<i>U.S. Embassy Tirana Chancery</i>	70
TOKYO, JAPAN	<i>U.S. Embassy Tokyo Ambassador's Residence</i>	72
TRIPOLI, LIBYA	<i>The American Cemetery</i>	74
VIENNA, AUSTRIA	<i>U.S. Embassy Vienna Chancery Consular Academy</i>	76
WASHINGTON D.C.	<i>President's Guest House Blair House</i>	78

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Message from the Secretary



On behalf of the American people, the U.S. Department of State is pleased to honor our landmark American properties abroad, share their historic value with host countries, and maintain them as catalysts for diplomacy. The Secretary of State's Register of Culturally Significant Property recognizes the Department of State's worldwide effort to protect our most noteworthy United States properties.

Established in 2000, the Secretary of State's Register commemorates our country's most significant international heritage, and it promotes and preserves architecture and American history.

The Register includes chanceries, official residences, office buildings, a museum, a cemetery, and the most famous guest house in the world—Blair House.

The U.S. Department of State owns or has under long-term lease over 3,500 properties in over 190 countries and 282 diplomatic posts worldwide. Presently, among these properties, thirty-nine have been designated as historically, architecturally, or culturally significant.

This publication will introduce the properties and the many fascinating people and events associated with these cultural treasures. I hope you enjoy learning about the Secretary of State's Register and these extraordinary properties.

Mike R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

A handwritten signature of Mike R. Pompeo in black ink. The signature is stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being large and prominent. The signature reads "Mike R. Pompeo".

The Secretary of State's Register of Culturally Significant Property

The Secretary of State's Register of Culturally Significant Property was founded in 2000 as a White House Millennium Project. It is similar to the National Historic Landmarks Program that is maintained by the Secretary of the Interior for domestic U.S. properties recognized as having exceptional importance in American history. The Department's Register is an honorific listing of diplomatic architecture and property overseas that figure prominently in our country's international heritage. These include chanceries, official residences, office buildings, a museum, a cemetery, and a guest house.

The Department's Register is instrumental in promoting the preservation of significant places in American diplomatic history and to the host nation. The Department of State provides professional stewardship, preservation, and maintenance of unique and significant buildings that are hallmarks of vernacular and high-style design. The Register serves to commemorate this cultural exchange and rich heritage.

Currently, there are thirty-nine Department of State properties listed in the Register. Nominations to the Register originate overseas at the U.S. post and are supported by the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations' Office of Cultural Heritage.

Criteria used to evaluate properties for listing in the Department's Register include:

- Designation or acknowledgment by a host government as a significant property
- Association with a significant historical event or person
- Important architecture and/or designed by a master architect
- Distinctive theme or assembly
- Unique object or visual feature
- Significant archaeological site

In addition to the six individual criteria listed above, all nominated properties must represent a significant event in or association with U.S. diplomatic history..

For more information visit our public website: www.OBOculturalheritage.state.gov

ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT

Former U.S. Consulate General



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property
by Condoleezza Rice in
2006, Secretary of State
(2005-2009)*

The former Consulate General in Alexandria reflects the city's rich cultural heritage and its cosmopolitan character and was once the home of Alfred de Menasce, a successful banker from a family of Jewish philanthropists and civic leaders. Architect Victor Erlanger, an Alexandria native but a French citizen, designed the residence in Palladian Neo-Renaissance style in 1922. Erlanger's design incorporated classical decorative elements into the square symmetrical house whose downstairs rooms open onto a central hall. An imposing marble staircase divides into two flights and leads up to the former private apartments.

Lawyer Naguib Ayoub Bey and his wife Mary, descendants of Christian Syro-Lebanese emigrants, took up residence in the house in 1929. Mary's nephew Pierre and his young wife Isabelle moved in ten years later and raised their family of five children in the house. The United States government bought the property in 1962 in order to relocate its expanding and well-used Thomas Jefferson Library. The once much-loved family home became a window on America. Thousands of Egyptians passed through its doors to learn English, borrow books, and exchange views on regional and international issues. These cultural activities ended, however, with the outbreak of the

June 1967 war. The building stood empty for twelve years. Its reopening as the American Cultural Center in 1979 underscored the confidence the United States had in Egypt and in its commitment to building strong bilateral relations. Although the U.S. Embassy closed its consulate in Alexandria in 1993, the American Center in Alexandria remained open as an American Presence Post in order to promote mutual understanding between the peoples of Egypt and the United States through a full range of programs.

In July 2012, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton re-inaugurated Consulate General Alexandria and following renovation of the facility, it became the Consulate General and served that function until January 2013.

RETIRED – Sold in January 2020



ALGIERS, ALGERIA

U.S. Embassy Algiers Ambassador's Residence | Villa Montfeld



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
John F. Kerry in 2016,
Secretary of State
(2013-2017)*

Villa Montfeld, the residence of the American Ambassador in Algiers, was acquired by the U.S. government on June 13, 1947. One of the most elegant estates in Algiers, it occupies 5.1 acres on the northeast slope of a range of coastal hills that frames the city of Algiers. Its layout and appointments are European, while much of the architectural detail is Turkish and Moorish. The original house was built between 1853 and 1863 and remodeled between 1876 and 1895. The remodeling was supervised by Benjamin Bucknall, an English architect of the Gothic Revival in England and Wales.

Bucknall lived in Wales but in 1878 he settled in Algiers permanently, where he changed his style to neo-Moorish architecture and oversaw the restoration of Villa Montfeld. Bucknall reputedly benefited from the gradual demolition of the lower Casbah (a residential area of Algiers) to acquire antique tiles, pillars, arches, and other decorative features from old Turkish and Moorish houses and used these items at Montfeld. A road, the Chemin Bucknall, was named after him.

Villa Montfeld played a role in recent United States diplomatic history. On November 4, 1979, the American Embassy in Tehran was occupied, triggering the Tehran hostage crisis. In 1980/81, Algeria mediated the crisis. Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher shuttled between Algeria and Washington and finally brokered a deal under which the hostages would be released in return for an unfreezing of Iranian assets and a lifting of sanctions. While Mr. Christopher was in Algiers, Villa Montfeld served as his headquarters. The signing of the Algiers Accords on January 19, 1981 by Deputy Secretary Christopher and the chief Algerian mediator led to the release of the hostages and their arrival in Algiers on January 20, 1981.



ATHENS, GREECE

U.S. Embassy Athens Chancery



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Condoleezza Rice in 2006,
Secretary of State
(2005-2009)*

The Athens Chancery, by architect Walter Gropius, one of the most celebrated representatives of the famed Bauhaus School, is a modern tribute to ancient Greek architecture. The architect designed the building as a metaphor for democracy in the country to which modern democracy owes so much.

Completed on July 4, 1961, the three-story edifice is markedly open. The landscaped courtyard provides a place for discussion and meeting. The white columns and brilliant reflective surfaces of the exterior façade are clad with Pentelic marble, the famous stone used in the Parthenon, other buildings on the Acropolis, and throughout the ancient Mediterranean. Black marble from Saint Peter, Peloponnesus, gray marble from Marathon, and other native Greek marbles are used throughout the building. The beautifully turned wood stair railing was made with Greek pearwood by Greek artisans.

Contemporary architecture magazines described the chancery as “a symbol of democracy at the fountainhead of many old democratic and architectural traditions” by “one of modern architecture’s Olympian figures,” Walter Gropius, and his associates at The Architects Collaborative. Gropius said that he sought “to find the spirit of [the] Greek approach without imitating any classical means.” The

podium, quadrilateral plan, interior patio, exterior columns, and formal landscaping were all handled in a thoroughly modern way. Pericles Sakellarios was the consulting architect. Paul Weidlinger and Mario Salvadori were the structural engineers.

The building’s climatic response includes ceramic sunscreens, wide overhangs, free-flowing air at continuously slotted overhangs, and a bipartite roof. Upper floors hang from the roof structure. Gropius placed a reflecting pool at the main entrance and fountains in the landscape to create serene settings and cooling from the Greek sun. The floor plan is arranged in a sweeping crescent that embraces a large formal terrace descending to a lawn and garden.

On the lawn facing the city is a bronze statue of American soldier/statesman George C. Marshall, whose aid program helped turn the Greek Civil War away from communism and supported a return to prosperity in Greece at the end of World War II.

The Athens Chancery remains a fresh and optimistic bow to the classical ideal and one of the most prominent Bauhaus buildings in Greece.

In 2013, the Department selected a design firm for a major rehabilitation of the chancery facility and campus at the U.S. Embassy in Athens.



BAGUIO, THE PHILIPPINES

U.S. Embassy Manila | Ambassador's Summer Residence



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Hillary R. Clinton in 2010,
Secretary of State
(2009-2013)*

William Howard Taft, the first U.S. civilian governor of the Philippines, from 1901–1903, found Manila's climate too oppressive and sought a summer retreat with a more accommodating climate. He selected the highland town of Baguio located on the country's northern Luzon island, which on June 1, 1903, had been declared as the "Summer Capital" by the Philippine Commission. Taft invited American architect and city planner Daniel Burnham to complete a plan for the area. Then, in 1935, when the Philippine government was established and received title to the government buildings in Manila and Baguio, there was a need for new buildings for U.S. personnel. Congress appropriated funds to construct new buildings for its governmental functions there, including a new residence in Baguio.

The structure itself was designed by Department of State architect J. A. Hewitt. It is emblematic of the stylistic initiatives followed by the Department of State in the decades between the two world wars, often described as streamlined modern and perhaps suggestive of romanticized U.S. Southern plantation houses.

The residence, then called the High Commissioner's House and now the Ambassador's Summer residence, was finished on April 1, 1940. On December 8, 1941, Japanese forces attacked. By Christmas, and for the next three years, the new building served as living quarters for high-ranking Japanese officers. Following the liberation of Baguio on April 17, 1945, control returned to the United States and the Philippines. On September 3, a day after Japan signed the surrender document aboard USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, in the living room of the residence, the Japanese High Command signed the Instrument of Surrender. General Tomoyuki Yamashita surrendered Japanese troops in the Philippine Islands to U.S. Army General Jonathan Wainwright.

Following Philippine independence in July 1946, the residence began a different diplomatic role, hosting visiting distinguished U.S. officials, U.S. chief of mission conferences, and bilateral defense meetings.



BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

U.S. Embassy Brussels NATO Ambassador's Residence | Truman Hall



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Condoleezza Rice in 2006,
Secretary of State
(2005-2009)*

Truman Hall is a traditional Flemish country estate built in 1963 for Côte d'Or chocolatier Jean Michiels. The house is the residence of the U.S. Ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and is named in honor of President Harry S Truman, one of NATO's founders. The design is the successful collaboration between architect B.A. Jacquemotte and landscape architect René Pechère.

Pechère, one of the best-known contemporary landscape architects in Europe, transformed twenty-seven acres of barren agricultural land into gentle hills and valleys, meadows, and formal gardens. A curving cobbled drive, lined with roses, leads to the tree-lined approach to the residence. The house overlooks a sweeping lawn, towering cedars, English gardens, and an herb garden. The lawn pavilion is planted with fragrant honeysuckle, roses, clematis, hydrangeas, and wisteria. The original children's playground, giant sequoia circle, and maze are still effective landscape elements. In 1984, on the first anniversary celebrating Truman Hall's becoming the official U.S. NATO residence, a new garden was created with cobbled circles representing each NATO country.

The Truman Hall residence is constructed of painted brick and gray stone, with slate roof dormers. Virginia creeper relieves the gray and white stucco and in autumn turns a festive red orange. The plan is designed to capture sunlight—the kitchen/breakfast rooms face east; the dining room is illuminated at lunchtime; and the salons overlook sunsets. The entry hall is paved in the famous "pierre bleu" Belgian black marble. The corridors are wide and inviting, and there is a library with fine eighteenth-century wood paneling.

Truman Hall, graciously welcoming visitors from the NATO nations and Alliance partner countries around the world, was sold in 1983 to the U.S. government at a reduced price by Mrs. Michiels, who said, "I want you to have it. Your country saved mine in World War II."



BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

U.S. Embassy Budapest Chancery



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
John F. Kerry in 2016,
Secretary of State
(2013-2017)*

Located in the heart of Szabadság tér (Freedom Square) in Budapest's Fifth District is the U.S. Embassy's Chancery building. The Chancery has been home to the U.S. government in Budapest since 1935 and has been a symbol of freedom and democracy for more than 80 years through the World War II and the Soviet Occupation of Central Europe. The building at Szabadság tér 12 was originally designed in 1899 by Hungarian architects Aladár Kármán and Gyula Ullman using the Hungarian art nouveau style. The Hungarian government has designated the property as a heritage building protected by regulations of the Hungarian Monuments Commission.

During World War II, the chancery building operated under the Swiss flag. Consul Carl Lutz was the official representative of neutral Switzerland during the war. He had offices in and operated out of the building from 1942 to 1945. Honored in 1965 by Yad Vashem and named to the list of Righteous Among the Nations, Lutz helped save 62,000 Hungarian Jews from deportation by the Nazis. Lutz also assisted the more famous Swedish diplomat, Raoul Wallenberg, in his rescue efforts.

In 1945 following the end of World War II, the United States and Hungary reestablished normal diplomatic relations. The U.S. government returned to Szabadság tér 12, purchasing the building on October 15, 1946. During the Soviet occupation of Hungary, one of the most famous occupants of the Chancery building was Cardinal József Mindszenty, leader of the Catholic Church in Hungary. The Cardinal personified uncompromising opposition to fascism and communism in support of religious freedom. After eight years in prison, he was freed during the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 and granted political asylum inside the Chancery, where Mindszenty lived for the next fifteen years. With U.S. government support, an agreement was reached with the Hungarian government allowing the Cardinal to leave the U.S. Embassy Chancery and the country on September 28, 1971.



BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

U.S. Embassy Buenos Aires Ambassador's Residence | Palacio Bosch



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Colin Powell in 2002,
Secretary of State
(2001-2005)*

The residence of the U.S. Ambassador to Argentina was designed by French architect René Sergent for prominent Argentine lawyer, and diplomat Ernesto Mauricio Bosch Peña and his wife Elisa María de Alvear Fernández Coronel. It was built between 1912 and 1917 upon Bosch's return from representing his country in Germany, the United States, and France to become Argentina's Minister of Foreign Affairs. André Carlhian, a specialist in traditional French classicism, was responsible for the interiors. Jules Charles Thays has often been credited as the landscape designer of Palacio Bosch. The French garden sophisticated geometry synthesized elements of both Thays's design and earlier plans proposed by Sergent. Lanús y Hary oversaw the construction, since the architect never visited Argentina. Most of the building's decorative materials and furnishings came from France.

Because of its stylistic unity and contextual relation to its environs, the Palacio Bosch is considered among Sergent's finest work. The façade echoes the small temple opposite Palermo Park. Grandiloquent interior rooms, around a central stone staircase, overlook the garden. The building was seminal to Argentine architectural taste. Working again with Duchêne, Sergent designed the Palacio Errázuriz-Alvear (now the Museum of Decorative Arts) and the Palacio Sans-Souci in Buenos Aires.

Bosch sold the residence to the United States government in 1929 following recurrent propositions by U.S. Ambassador Robert Woods Bliss according to the oral tradition. Bliss, owner of Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C., also purchased some of the furnishings, which he later donated to the residence. Major renovation of the building was undertaken in 1994. The Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations' first totally historic restoration thus began, using many Argentine artisans and craftsmen who were direct descendants of the original experts. Thanks to the extraordinary donation of the research of Argentine architect Fabio Grementieri and Robert Carlhian of Paris—André Carlhian's son—an exact restoration was possible.

The effort was an international one, with invaluable contributions from dedicated professionals in France, the United States, and Argentina. Leading experts on historic preservation from thirty countries, who attended the International Conference on Critical Appraisal and Heritage Preservation in Buenos Aires in 2000, were unanimous in their praise for the renovation and restoration of the Palacio Bosch. Copies of Sergent's original drawings (now owned by Grementieri) were published in *Revista de Arquitectura*, Argentina's primary architectural magazine of the period. The Palacio Bosch is designated an historic property by the Buenos Aires municipality and has been declared National Monument of Argentina in 2018.



CASABLANCA, MOROCCO

U.S. Consulate General Casablanca Consul's Residence | Villa Mirador



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
John F. Kerry in 2012,
Secretary of State
(2013-2017)*

Villa Mirador, built in 1935 on the outskirts of Casablanca, is a residence designed in the French North African colonial style. It was requisitioned by U.S. forces following the American invasion of North Africa in November 1942. The next month President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill exchanged secret telegrams to arrange a high-level Allied war meeting because, in Churchill's words, "we have no plan for 1943 which is on the scale or up to the level of events." What followed was the Casablanca Conference in January 1943.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, who was directed to plan for the meeting, reported in late 1942 that the neighborhood in which Villa Mirador was located, Anfa, had a hotel "surrounded by a group of excellent villas situated five miles south of Casablanca" which seemed ideal for the meeting. The residence that impressed all as "charming, ...exactly suited as to what was required, complete with a nice garden, light and airy," was Villa Mirador, which seemed "top-rate."

Churchill arrived on January 13 and immediately set up his traveling "war room," which was outfitted with updated maps of all theatres of war. That evening he and the British Chiefs of Staff laid the groundwork to pressure the U.S. for an invasion of

Sicily rather than the European mainland approach that was the traditional American preference. The British, of course, were ultimately successful in this aim: The Allies invaded Sicily later that year with full American support, paving the way for the fall of Italy and ultimate American and Allied success in Western Europe.

Perhaps the most important legacy of the Casablanca Conference, however, was the bold new policy of an "unconditional surrender." Over the course of consultations and discussions held at the Anfa Hotel and Villa Mirador, Churchill and Roosevelt agreed that "Peace can come to the world only by a total elimination of German and Japanese war power." This would mean "the destruction of a philosophy [in these countries] which is based on the conquest and subjugation of other peoples," a policy that would result in "a reasonable assurance of world peace for generations."

On May 2, 1947, Villa Mirador was purchased by the United States from its original owner, Paul André Jules Cauvin. It has since served as the official residence of the U.S. Consul General.



CURAÇAO, DUTCH CARIBBEAN

U.S. Consulate General Curaçao Consul's Residence | Roosevelt House



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
John F. Kerry in 2016,
Secretary of State
(2013-2017)*

During World War II, oil refineries on Curaçao and Aruba provided 70 percent of the fuel used by the Allied Forces. The United States forces assumed the defense of these strategic islands on February 14, 1942. Just two nights later, German U-boats attacked the refineries and oil tankers, but U.S. forces successfully defended the islands.

After the war, the people of Curaçao pledged a unique gift to symbolize their gratitude: a residence for the U.S. consul general to be constructed on a prime location in the town of Willemstad overlooking the harbor entrance. The Netherlands and the people of Curaçao formally offered the gift of the land and future residence to the U.S. government on October 31, 1945, and President Harry S. Truman officially accepted the gift on April 13, 1946. The property would be called Roosevelt House in honor of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the leader of the Allied Forces and a U.S. president with Dutch ancestry. The American Consul General in 1947 noted in a letter to acting Governor Dr. C. Suthoff that Roosevelt House is to be "...dedicated as a memorial to the armed forces of my country who served in the Netherlands West Indies during the war, and at the same time to their old Commander-in-Chief, and also as a memorial of perpetual friendship between the peoples of the Netherlands West Indies and the United States."

On March 15, 1950, Governor of the Netherlands West Indies Leonard A.H. Peter officially transferred the building to the United States at a ceremony marking the opening of Roosevelt House. The house is a modern vernacular building with painted stucco walls and tiled hipped roof. The library of the house is for visitors and contains a picture of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The U.S. government selected the three lots the house was built upon and approved the building design before construction began. The house was designed by A.A. van Ammers from the Curaçao Public Works department. A memorial rock dedicated to those who served during World War II is displayed on the grounds. The property is included within the boundaries of the 1997 UNESCO World Heritage Site for the Historic City Center of Punda in Willemstad, Curaçao.



DUBLIN, IRELAND

U.S. Embassy Dublin Ambassador's Residence | Chief Secretary's Lodge



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property
by Mike R. Pompeo in
2018, Secretary of State
(Appointed 2018)*

The Dublin Chief of Mission residence, formerly the Chief Secretary's Lodge for Ireland, is a National Monument in the Republic of Ireland. During its use as the Chief Secretary's Lodge (1776-1922), it was the residence of the second in command in the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland's administration. It is located in Phoenix Park, the Irish urban park corresponding to London's Regent's Park (with which it shares Decimus Burton as a vital figure), and is classified as an Archaeological Complex under the National Monuments Act.

The residence is a two-story 28,395 square-foot masonry structure located in proximity to the Irish President's residence. It has a long construction history. Colonel John Blaquiere, who was Chief Secretary and Bailiff of Phoenix Park in 1776, received a four-room cottage as his residence. He extended it into a two-story low structure with "two main south front great tower-like projections or bays." Other major additions followed. In 1852 Lord Naas, then Chief Secretary, built a large glass conservatory on the east end (since demolished); in 1865 Chichester Parkinson-Fortescue, also a Chief Secretary, added the "pavilion lighted by eight tall circular-headed windows" that define the building today. It is surrounded by 61 acres of private grounds within the larger Phoenix Park area of 1,760 acres.

The United States was one of the first nations to recognize and establish relations with the new Irish Free State in 1927. It negotiated a ten-year lease on the Chief Secretary's Lodge to serve as both the chancery and ambassador's residence. As the lease was expiring, the Irish government decided to make it the official residence of the President of Ireland, but then learned that the building was structurally unsound and could not be repaired on a schedule that met the government's need. The Lodge was re-rented to the United States on condition that it undertake the repairs.

The chancery moved out of the Lodge in 1948 and the next year the United States and Ireland agreed to a long-term lease for the residence and grounds.



DUBLIN, IRELAND

U.S. Embassy Dublin Chancery



*Contribution to
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Mike R. Pompeo in 2018,
Secretary of State
(Appointed 2018)*

The long process to design and construct the Dublin Chancery reflected a period of controversy and struggle — both in and outside the Department of State.

The internal conflict was over program direction within the Office of Foreign Buildings Operations (FBO), predecessor of Overseas Buildings Operations. In the mid-1950s when the American foreign building program peaked, there was a significant faction in FBO, and its supporters in the profession at large, that wanted the Department of State's "new architecture to convey the image of a young, vigorous and forward-looking nation." Those proponents were advocating that FBO adopt Modernism as the primary focus of its design program.

John Johansen, a modernist later known as one of the Harvard Five, was selected for the commission. He had been a student of Walter Gropius and was backed by Harry Shepley, Pietro Belluschi and Richard Bannett. All members of the FBO Architectural Advisory Panel, for the job. It took seven different submissions before the Advisory Panel (Shepley and Belluschi had left it by that time) finally signed off on the design, a tortuous process that at one point led to suggestion of a new architect. But everyone persisted and the design that

won approval was the now familiar "sinewy drum" which was startling at the time, especially as an expression of the United States' diplomacy. It was technically innovative, utilizing a structural system of cast-formed, intricate concrete elements, and the Irish gave it high marks.

Congress, however, did not. When the Subcommittee Chairman saw it he erupted and the member from Wisconsin likened the design to "a series of flapjacks with a pat of butter on the top." They declined to take action and it was not until two years later that newly inaugurated President John F. Kennedy ended the impasse and construction began.

The longer-term view makes clear the significance of the design and its meaning. An Taisce (the National Trust of Ireland) lauded it for "effective development of a prominent corner site on a main city approach, for a sympathy of scale with the existing environment and interest of character, without imitation of surrounding buildings, for integration with existing trees and street setting." It has been noted for being "in the true spirit of monumental architecture," and in 2013 Docomo called out its "recognized Global importance."



FLORENCE, ITALY

U.S. Consulate General Florence | Palazzo Canevaro



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Hillary R. Clinton in 2010,
Secretary of State
(2009-2013)*

Palazzo Canevaro, the U.S. Consulate General in Florence, was designed by Giuseppe Poggi for Marquis Manfredi Calcagnini Estense in 1857—the last of a series of glorious Florentine Neo-Renaissance residences by Florence's most famous architect and city planner.

Calcagnini kept the palace for only a brief time. Then it was occupied by Count Francesco Arese — an important figure in the Risorgimento and bosom friend of Emperor Napoleon III — and later an Italian Senator. At the beginning of 1900, Emanuele Giuseppe Canevaro, Duke of Zoagli, bought the building for his residence. The Canevaros were an important family, busy in both the Italian and Peruvian political worlds. Emanuele Giuseppe's son Raffaele and wife Terry Camperio, a young American heiress, were active in the social life of the city. In the period between the two world wars, Palazzo Canevaro was a center of Florentine society and on innumerable occasions opened its doors to Italian and foreign dignitaries.

Palazzo Canevaro became a U.S. property on December 30, 1947, when the American Consul Walter Orebaugh purchased it, together with the Annex and the garden. (During the war, Orebaugh had been a prisoner of war of the Fascist government, escaped, and joined the Italian partisans in the hills of Umbria.)

The building is protected by Italian law because of its architectural and historic value and its setting on the banks of the River Arno. Serving the large resident American population, American business interests, the American university community (over 50 in its district) and the over one million tourists who visit annually, Palazzo Canevaro has played a significant role in Florentine life since 1947.

During the disastrous flood of the Arno in 1966, which resulted in the deaths of over 100 Florentines and left 500 families homeless, the U.S. Consulate General Florence was recognized by the Department of State for its distinguished service assisting American tourists and residents of Florence. Following the flood, the U.S. Consulate played a key coordinating role for the American “Mud Angels” — volunteers, mostly students, who cleaned the city of refuse, mud, and oil, and retrieved priceless works of art, books, and other materials ravaged by the Arno. One of those volunteers was young Edward Kennedy, and in 1996 Senator Kennedy returned to be honored by the City of Florence in an official event observing the 30th anniversary of the flood. In years following the flood, the U.S. Consulate assisted the U.S. Committee to Rescue Italian Art, chaired by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, which sponsored the restoration of damaged artworks around the city.

Photo credit U.S. Consulate General Florence



HANOI, VIETNAM

U.S. Embassy Hanoi Ambassador's Residence



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Colin Powell in 2004,
Secretary of State
(2001-2005)*

The U.S. Ambassador's residence in Hanoi, perhaps the most architecturally distinguished ambassadorial residence in the city, is genteel and elegantly Parisian. The façade is defined by tall windows, wrought iron balconies, and a high-style slate mansard roof punctuated with dormers. It was designed by M. LaCollonge, Principal Architect and Chief of Civil Construction Service in Tonkin. The house was built in 1921 by Indochina Public Property, part of the French colonial government, for Indochina Financial Governors who lived in the residence until 1948. It was then assigned, until 1954, to the highest-ranking Indochina Tariff Officer.

When the French left Southeast Asia in 1954, Vietnamese government officials moved into the house. Vice Minister Phan Ke Toai was the last Vietnamese resident. He had been Emperor Bao Dai's special envoy, the highest-ranking representative from the royal Hue Court under the Japanese occupation in the northern part of the country. He was assigned to his post when the Japanese seized power from the French in 1940, serving until the Japanese surrender on August 15, 1945. Toai later joined the Viet Minh government, having secretly collaborated with the Viet Minh during the Japanese occupation to protect the Viet Minh from government harassment. At

Toai's death the house became the headquarters for the Committee for Foreign Culture Exchange. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs press office was located in the building until 1994.

The United States opened a Liaison Office in Hanoi on January 28, 1995. Diplomatic relations were established on July 11, 1995, and U.S. Embassy Hanoi was established with a Chargé d'Affaires ad interim. On May 6, 1997, former U.S. Air Force pilot Douglas "Pete" Peterson, a former prisoner of war, became the first U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam. The residence had been included in an exchange of property between the United States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in 1995. Its recent renovation preserves the property's historical integrity.

This architecturally significant property contributes to the campaign to maintain the ambiance of Hanoi's past and reflects vestiges of a long period in Vietnam's history.



Photo by TianDao

HELSINKI, FINLAND

U.S. Embassy Helsinki Ambassador's Residence



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
John F. Kerry in 2016,
Secretary of State
(2013-2017)*

The residence of the U.S. Ambassador is notable for its role as a beautiful backdrop over several decades in international diplomacy, and is a valuable symbol of the United States-Finland partnership. The residence has played host to significant diplomatic events between the former Soviet Union/Russia and the United States, including two and a half years of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) negotiations, as well as talks on the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), the Helsinki Accords, and the first Gulf Crisis. Several presidents and vice presidents have visited the residence in conjunction with these and other occasions.

The building in Helsinki was designed by Harrie Lindeberg, a sought after architect whose practice was aimed at elite clients and was known for buildings which reflected neo-Georgian and neo-Federal styles. For Helsinki he chose William Byrd's Westover (completed c. 1750) as his inspiration and created a structure which combined the chancery and the residence into a single, winged structure. Construction started in 1938 and concluded the following year, by which time the Winter War between the Soviet Union and Finland had begun.

The relationship between the United States and Finland soured during World War II and complete use of the new building did not occur until after the war ended.

The representational rooms in the center of the structure are a significant bicultural architectural expression. Lindeberg paneled the major hall, the living room, the dining room, and the study with traditional Georgian style paneling, but he chose to have them built of the native Finnish Karelian Flame Birch (Loimukoivu), a dramatically figured wood. The Finish province of Karelia, however, was captured by the Soviet Union during the Winter War and now is a part of Russia.



HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

U.S. Consulate General Ho Chi Minh City | Former U.S. Embassy Saigon Site



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property
by Mike R. Pompeo in
2020. Secretary of State
(Appointed 2018)*

The United States Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City is located on the grounds of the former U.S. Embassy Saigon (1967-1975), a site with a storied history. The U.S. government established a diplomatic presence in French Indochina in 1907 and the first embassy in Vietnam in 1952 on Hàm Nghi Boulevard. After a car bomb attack in 1965, the embassy moved to a new building constructed on a 3-acre campus near the Presidential Palace. Embassy Saigon opened in 1967 as the Vietnam War escalated.

During its eight years of active service as U.S. Embassy Saigon, the compound bore witness to the courage of conviction in conflict and valor in the protection of American personnel and government property overseas. During the Tết Offensive, communist forces targeted the embassy. On January 31, 1968, nineteen commandos used satchel bombs to blow a hole in the perimeter wall and entered the compound. The Marine Security Guard (MSG) detachment reacted to the attack and Marine Corporal James C. Marshall was killed in action. Marshall was the first MSG to die defending a U.S. embassy. The attackers took positions behind large concrete planters on the grounds and, during the next six hours, only one survived. Four U.S. military police also died during the attack.

In April 1975 the embassy became a place of refuge as the forces of the North Vietnamese army advanced rapidly on Saigon. President Gerald Ford ordered that

the embassy close and all personnel evacuated. Word spread that the embassy was a withdrawal point and, on April 29-30, approximately 2100 U.S., Vietnamese, and third-country nationals were flown from the embassy grounds to ships waiting offshore. The last marines were lifted from the top of the chancery at 7:53 am. Within hours, a North Vietnamese tank broke through the gates of the Presidential Palace and the South Vietnamese government surrendered.

After the normalization of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in 1995, the U.S. government reacquired the property. The U.S. constructed a new facility on the grounds of the compound and opened the Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City in 1999. The footprint of the chancery is now a green space for consulate events and the site a testament to an impactful period of U.S. and world history.

The site of the chancery is recognized an evocative symbol of the Vietnam War era. It includes vestiges of the old embassy compound from that turbulent period such as five concrete planters that featured in the 1968 attack. It also is defined by cultural and natural resources that transcend the violence of that assault, such as the original flagpole donated to the embassy in 1929, now anchored in concrete salvaged from the 1967 chancery, and two sacred trees from the nineteenth century.

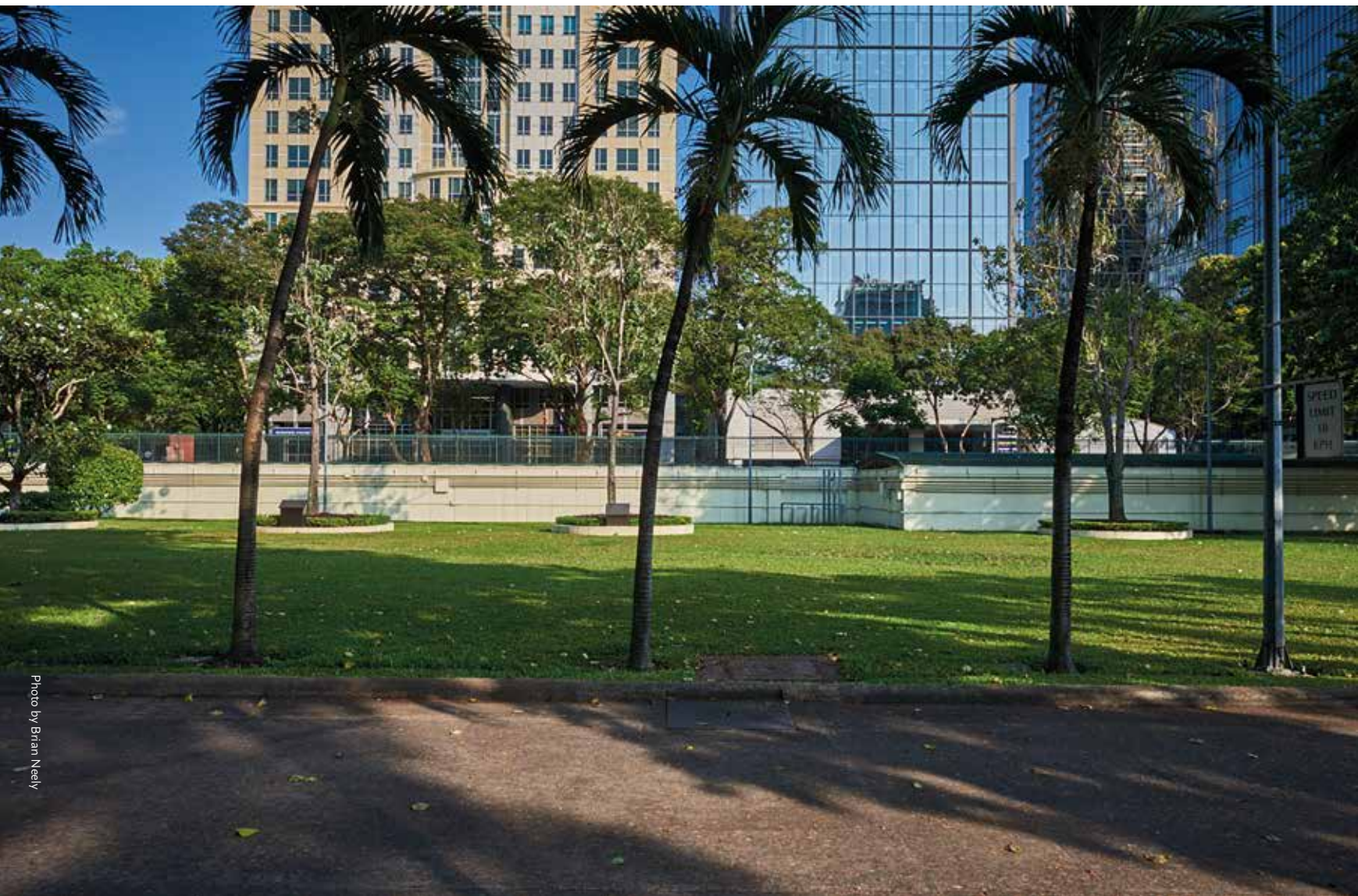


Photo by Brian Neely

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Former U.S. Consulate General | Palazzo Corpi



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
John F. Kerry in 2016,
Secretary of State
(2013-2017)*

Genoese ship owner Ignazio Corpi constructed the Palazzo Corpi between 1873 and 1882 for his family's use during lengthy stays in Istanbul. Italian architect Giacomo Leoni designed the four-story building in classical Italianate style. Unfortunately Corpi died in 1882 and didn't get to enjoy the completed building. His family leased the building to the United States for use as its Legation that same year. In 1906, the status of the United States Mission to the Ottoman Empire was raised from Legation to Embassy and, in 1907, Ambassador John Leishman purchased Palazzo Corpi to serve as the first Chancery and Residence of the United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire. The wing that housed the chancery offices was built the following year in 1908. In 1937 the embassy moved to Ankara and Palazzo Corpi became the U.S. Consulate General in Istanbul for the next forty-six years.

The facade is white marble. Inside, the fine appointments imported from Italy include rosewood doors and window frames, etched art glass, and ancient recut marble paving. Ceilings and walls are adorned with pastel colored wall paintings. The mythological paintings on the original dining room ceiling depict Neptune and Diana surrounded by

muses and bacchantes rising triumphant. Many original features remain, including moldings, bronze light fixtures, furniture, a metallic framed central skylight, and a grand stair. Missouri Hall, named after the famous American battleship, is the central space on the first floor and was used extensively for diplomatic ceremonies, meetings, and receptions. The back garden preserves quiet greenery juxtaposed against the property's otherwise hard urban surface paving.

Palazzo Corpi is part of the Beyoğlu neighborhood in what was traditionally a European neighborhood full of artisans and embassies. In 2014 the U.S. government leased the building to a developer and it began a new life as the Soho House hotel and conference center. The Palazzo Corpi is designated by the High Board of Turkish Cultural and Natural Heritage Preservation authority as Category I cultural patrimony.



LIMA, PERÚ

U.S. Embassy Lima Ambassador's Residence



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property
by Mike R. Pompeo in
2018, Secretary of State
(Appointed 2018)*

Construction of the Lima Chief of Mission residence marked the beginning of an important phase in the Department of State's history. It signaled a turn away from Classical Revival and Greek Revival residences modeled on American estate houses and government buildings, toward structures that were based on a more contextual sensibility.

The Lima experience could not have more starkly illustrated the change. When the Department of State received proposals for the residence in 1929, there were three submissions: a Classic Revival-style residence with a full-height columned portico and a five-part Palladian plan; a plan "inspired by Arlington;" and "the Montpelier building", inspired by the residence of President James Monroe. It was the Montpelier plan that was selected — but the project was delayed and ultimately went into hiatus.

When the project was revived, great changes had occurred in the Department of State. Frederick Larken had come to the State Department, bringing with him a program focused on developing designs that fit better into their foreign sites. Paul Franz Jaquet, who had undertaken the Lima project, visited Lima and came back with a new vision, rapidly turned into a plan, which was heavily influenced by the Torre Tagle Palace (1739) in the city; it was approved in 1942.

The style of the building has been termed Peruvian Colonial, a form based on the Baroque style brought

from Europe in the eighteenth century. The 10,500 square foot building incorporates a sculpted, highly ornate and richly carved stone grand entrance with solomonic columns made of Arequipa stone, boldly carved window frames, extensive use of Mudejar (Moorish) geometric pattern embellishments, Sevillian tiles, and miradores embellished with fine wood latticework. It is remarkably intact and accurately reflects Jaquet's design intent and original appearance.

The building played a significant role in United States foreign policy in Latin America during the Cold War. The Shining Path guerilla group in Peru was one of a number of such movements emerging then that proclaimed Marxist ideologies and targeted U.S. facilities. Dynamite cartridges were thrown into the garden in 1981, followed by a car bomb at the perimeter in 1986. In 1992 another car bomb exploded on the street behind the residence, heavily damaging the property and killing three Peruvian police officers. Shortly thereafter, it was attacked again by mortar fire.

The structure is located within the Monumental Urban Area of Arequipa Avenue and Exhibition Park, a protected district established by Peru's Ministry of Culture in 2006. The most significant changes include the addition of a swimming pool and repair work to the exterior after a terrorist attack in 1992.



LISBON, PORTUGAL

U.S. Embassy Lisbon Ambassador's Residence | Casa Carlucci



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Mike R. Pompeo in 2019,
Secretary of State
(Appointed 2018)*

The residence of the U.S. Ambassador to Portugal is a stately mansion built in 1878 by the Count of Olivais e Penha Longa in Lapa, a prestigious district in downtown Lisbon. In 1927, the U.S. government rented the building from the count's heirs as the residence for its Minister and for the offices of the American Legation. In 1939, the Chancery moved to Rua da Lapa and the building was exclusively the residence of the U.S. Chief of Mission. The U.S. government purchased the property in January 1964. The Portuguese Directorate-General for Cultural Heritage has included the house, with four other buildings, in a Special Protection Zone for architectural heritage since 1998.

The architecture followed the neoclassical style that prevailed throughout Europe in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The building's neoclassical features are best observed in its imposing façade: the Doric capitals on the ground level pilasters, the Ionic capitals on the pilasters of the upper two levels, the cymatia that separate each story, the symmetric design centered on the main entrance, and the various window ornamentations. Inside, under a double-glassed ceiling, the main staircase leads to two galleries that lead to the reception rooms on the main floor, having ceilings richly embellished with plaster reliefs dating from the time of construction.

One room with particular historical resonance is the Crow's Nest, a glass-enclosed observation deck that offers a wonderful view of the city and the Tejo River. Most

noteworthy about this room were the many late nights in 1975 Ambassador Frank Charles Carlucci III and former Foreign Minister Mário Soares spent here working to advance democracy and human rights for the people of Portugal during the turbulent times following the 1974 Carnation Revolution.

After decades of right-wing dictatorship, Portugal faced the threat of a Communist takeover. The Carnation Revolution of April 1974 ushered in a period of instability as hard-left factions tried to capitalize on their record of opposition to dominate Portugal's political transition. Arriving in January 1975, Ambassador Frank Charles Carlucci III headed American efforts to prevent the loss of a NATO member state to the Alliance's political and ideological foes. That meant working with democratically-minded parties and politicians across the political spectrum, engaging the Portuguese press, and convincing Washington skeptics that non-Communist Portuguese leftists – notably the Socialist Foreign Minister Mário Soares – had a realistic chance to prevail. Carlucci's anti-communist political strategy proved effective. Portugal adopted a democratic Constitution in 1976, and Soares led the Socialists to an electoral victory in 1976, and Portugal remained a committed NATO Ally. Not only did Frank Carlucci live in the current Ambassador's residence, the house itself was the site of key meetings with Soares that helped to define Portugal's democratic future, and set the stage for the great friendship our countries continue to enjoy today.



LONDON, ENGLAND

U.S. Embassy London Ambassador's Residence | Winfield House



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Madeleine Albright in
2001, Secretary of State
(1997-2001)*

Situated adjacent to Regent's Park, the residence of the U.S. Ambassador to the Court of St. James emanates power and grace. The site was originally occupied by Hertford Villa, the largest of the eight villas originally constructed in Regent's Park. Occupants of the villa included the Marquess of Hertford, newspaper proprietor Lord Rothermere, and the American financier Otto H. Kahn. The villa was damaged by fire in the 1930s and was purchased by American heiress Barbara Hutton, one of the wealthiest women in the world. Hutton demolished the existing villa and, on the recommendation of Lord Louis Mountbatten, hired the English firm of Wimperis, Simpson & Guthrie to design her house.

The red-brick Georgian-style mansion was built in 1936 and named after Hutton's grandfather F.W. (Winfield) Woolworth, who had founded the stores where any item could be purchased for five or ten cents. Hutton employed two decorators: Johnny Sieben, an expert on carpets and French furniture, who had renovated the Woolworth town houses in New York, and Sheila Lady Milbank, who had consulted on furnishings, colors, and fabrics for Hutton's London house. The decorators laid oak parquet floors, installed eighteenth-century French paneling, fitted marble bathrooms, and planted several thousand trees and hedges.

During World War II Winfield House was used as a Royal Air Force officers' club and then as a convalescent home for Canadian servicemen. After the war Hutton offered it to the United States government, for the price of one American dollar, to be used as the ambassador's residence.

The residence is among the properties comprising the Regent's Park historic district established by the commissioners for the Crown Estate. Its twelve-acre private garden within the city limits of London is second in size only to that of Buckingham Palace. A ninety-nine-year lease was negotiated with the landlord Crown Estate and extensive renovations prepared the residence for its new role as a stage for diplomacy.

On their first night in Winfield House, January 18, 1955, Ambassador and Mrs. Winthrop Aldrich hosted a ball for Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. In the early 1970s, Ambassador and Mrs. Walter H. Annenberg refurbished the residence in a grand style that included installing eighteenth-century hand-painted Chinese wallpaper in the Garden Room. Winfield House stands as a tangible symbol of the uniquely close relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom.



MADRID, SPAIN

U.S. Embassy Madrid Deputy Chief of Mission Residence | Byne House



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Condoleezza Rice in 2006,
Secretary of State
(2005-2009)*

The residence of the U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission to Spain is a stately townhouse built in 1885 by Don Manuel Caldero, the Marqués de Salamanca and the principal developer of the neighborhood that now carries his name. American architect Arthur Byne and his wife Mildred Stapley purchased the property in 1931. Byne was a world authority on Spanish architecture and art as well as being an antiques dealer. The many books that Bynes authored on Spanish architecture and interior design have been republished and remain standard textbooks. Original volumes are highly prized by collectors. The house is one of the few original surviving period houses in the neighborhood.

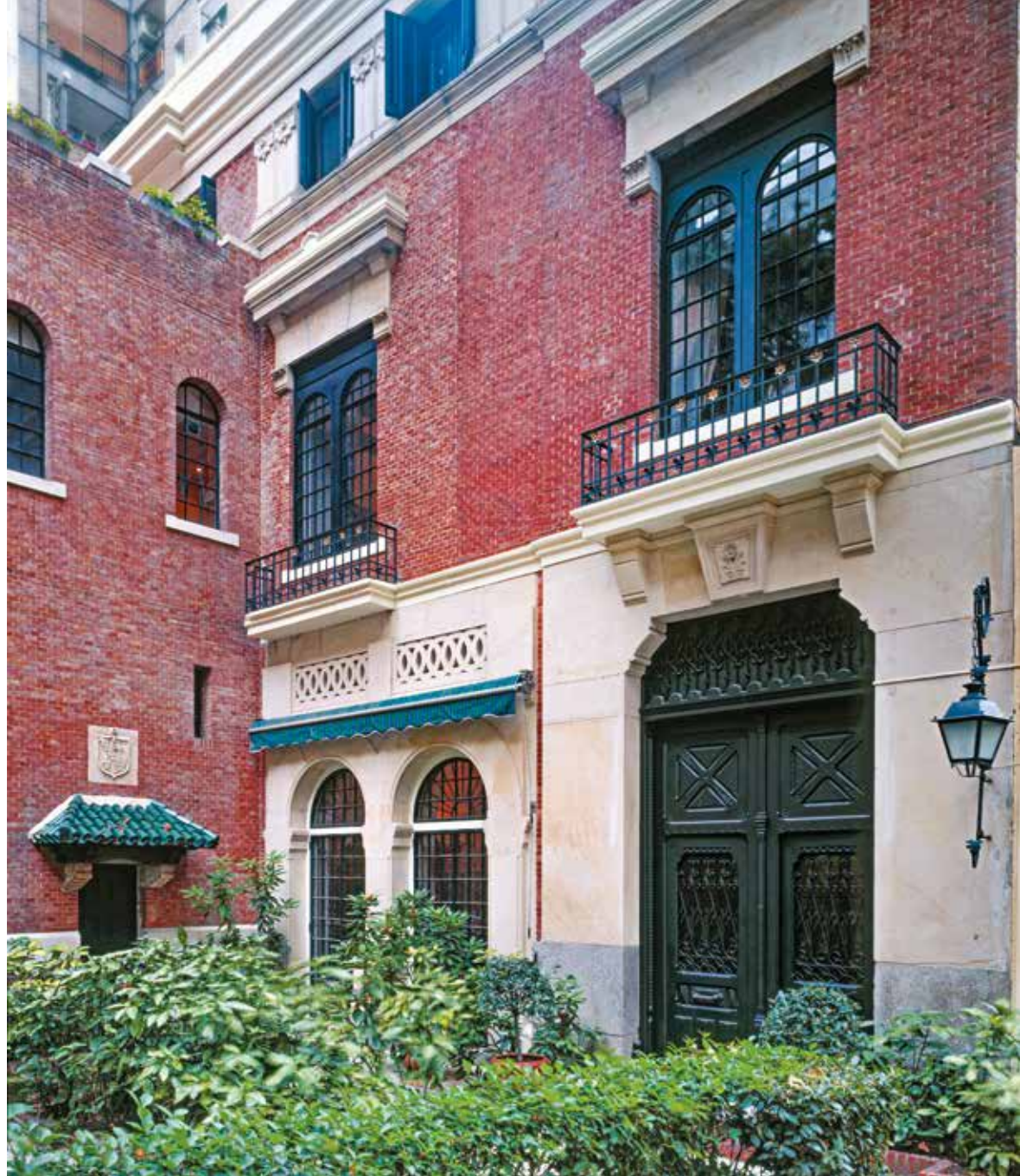
The Bynes transformed their classical residence into a showcase of authentic Iberian artifacts from the tenth through the nineteenth centuries, mixed with reproduction floors, ceilings, fireplaces, doors, and windows. There is an inviting porte cochère and a grand interior marble staircase. Since their occupancy, the living quarters have been enlarged, a kitchen wing added, and fireplace mantels installed.

The mantel in the main salon bears the coat of arms of the Solis family of Salamanca. The seventeenth-century limestone fireplace in the library features carved lilies in a jar, symbolizing the Virgin Mary. The wood coffered ceilings (*artesonado*) are part of the Muslim Mudéjar tradition of handcrafting

tessellated pine boards. The polychrome ceiling on the second floor landing contains a large, eight-pointed Moorish star surrounded by smaller stars, and there are black-and-white marble floors and raw wood doors throughout the house. The dining room contains a 300-year-old natural pine ceiling supported on medieval stone brackets ornamented with carved human and animal heads. The adjacent carriage house is now a guest house.

Arthur Byne attended the School of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania and studied in Rome. In 1914 he became curator of the Museum of the Hispanic Society of America. His watercolors were exhibited internationally. Byne won a silver medal at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco in 1915 and was awarded the Spanish Gran Cruz del Mérito Militar. He sold artifacts to publishing magnate William Randolph Hearst, including the fifteenth-century Barbastro Ceiling, now in the Billiard Room at what became known as Hearst Castle in San Simeon, California. Byne also shipped the Santa Maria de Ovila Monastery to San Francisco in 1931 for a medieval museum proposed by Hearst's architect, Julia Morgan. The United States government purchased the property from the executor of the Byne estate in 1944. It is listed with premier status on Madrid's historic register.

Photo by Elizabeth Gill Lui



MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES

U.S. Embassy Manila Chancery



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Condoleezza Rice in 2006,
Secretary of State
(2005-2009)*

The U.S. Embassy in Manila is tangible evidence of the American commitment to Philippine independence pledged in 1934 by the U.S. Congress. The Federal Modern-style chancery, designed by Juan M. de Guzman Arellano and completed in 1940, was initially the residence and offices of the U.S. High Commissioner. Built on reclaimed land, a gift from the Philippine government, the building sits on more than 600 reinforced concrete piles sunk sixty feet into the seaside site. Local reports at the time praised its state-of-the-art construction, finding that its plain, compact, and solid expression embodied efficiency, strength, and stability.

During World War II, Japanese forces entered the city of Manila on January 2, 1942. As the invasion took place, members of the U.S. High Commissioner's staff lowered the headquarters' American flag, burned it, and buried its ashes to prevent its capture. After the Bataan operations in April 1942, the property became the residence of the Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Imperial Military in the Philippines. When the Japanese-sponsored Republic of the Philippines was declared a year later, the building was repainted and refurnished as the Japanese Embassy.

During its recapture by Allied forces and Philippine guerrillas in a fierce two-day battle, the building was seriously damaged, but the elegant ballroom

and other rooms remained intact. On February 22, 1945, General Douglas MacArthur again raised the American flag. The original table used to sign the surrender of Japanese forces in the Philippines on September 3, 1945, remains in the Ambassador's residence in Baguio City.

In October 1945, just one month after the war ended, Quonset huts were erected, and the property became known as "The Courthouse," the center of Japanese war crime trials in the Philippines. The ballroom served as the courtroom, and upstairs rooms as holding cells. On July 4, 1946, the Philippines became independent, and the building became the United States Embassy. In spite of the turmoil caused by war and rebuilding, the chancery's historical design and building fabric have been preserved. The property retains its simple elegance and dignified original character.

The Manila Embassy's history, age, battle-scarred flagpole, graceful garden monuments, and interior spaces all bear testament to U.S.-Philippine history and stand as symbols of freedom and democracy. The Manila Chancery has been designated an historic property by the National Historical Institute of the Philippines.



MOSCOW, RUSSIA

U.S. Embassy Moscow Ambassador's Residence | Spaso House



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Hillary R. Clinton in 2010,
Secretary of State
(2009-2013)*

Few buildings associated with American diplomacy over the past century carry the same resonance and have played such an important role in the U.S. overseas diplomatic heritage as Spaso House, the residence of the U.S. Ambassador in Moscow. Since it was first selected as the American ambassador's residence in late 1933, Spaso House has hosted a long list of distinguished guests, from musicians to presidents of the United States and Russian heads of state. Spaso House has been in continual use by the U.S. government since the United States first established diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, as both an ambassador's residence and, occasionally, as a chancery building.

While much of its fame rests upon the legendary diplomatic parties and state dinners that have been held within its confines over the past eight decades, Spaso House has also served as a venue for both traditional diplomatic negotiations and public diplomacy. Social and cultural events hosted at the house have played an essential role in easing tensions and maintaining contact between the United States and Russia, even when official relations were strained. As such, the history of Spaso House provides a unique perspective on the twentieth-century diplomatic relationship between the United States, the Soviet Union, and its successor, the Russian Federation.

The original owner of Spaso House, Nikolay Vtorov, was a renowned Russian industrial magnate. In 1913, Vtorov purchased a lot in the Arbat district from Princess Lobanova-Rostovskaya and hired noted architects Vladimir Adamovich and Vladimir Mayat to design and build his new home. It was constructed in the New Empire style that was popular within Russia's wealthy business class. The interior wall paintings were produced by a well-known artist, Ignatiy Nivinskiy. Fêted by contemporaries as a masterpiece, Spaso House remains one of the best surviving examples of early twentieth-century Russian neoclassicism.

The structure has served as home to some of the greatest practitioners of American diplomacy during the past century: George Kennan, Chip Bohlen, Averell Harriman, Llewellyn Thompson, and Thomas Pickering, among others. What truly defines Spaso House, however, is its status as a symbol of hope for Russian-American amity. Although this hope has often been frustrated, either by the Stalinist excesses of the 1930s or the decades-long superpower struggle of the Cold War, such failures tell but half of the story. The record of Spaso House as a backdrop to the triumphs of the Grand Alliance in World War II, détente in the 1970s, and glasnost in the 1980s proves that the dream of Russian-American friendship is both valid and lasting.



NEW DELHI, INDIA

U.S. Embassy New Delhi Chancery



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Colin Powell in 2004,
Secretary of State
(2001-2005)*

The U.S. Embassy New Delhi Chancery, built in the 1950s during the heyday of American foreign building, was the first major embassy building project approved during the administration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953–1961). It was a time when American foreign policy aimed to support free people resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or outside pressures.

The chancery was designed by master architect Edward Durell Stone, who captured history and fantasy in a memorable symbol of the United States' commitment to India after its independence. The embassy building is a hallmark example of modernist philosophy by Stone, one of the earliest exponents of the International Style. It is a well-proportioned box formally standing on a podium—a simple isolated object in open space. Internal organization is radial. Smaller enclosed uniform offices ring around a shimmering pool punctuated by floating green islands. The use of water and the open-air central pool recall Mogul gardens of earthly paradise. The exterior glass curtain wall is protected by a vivid and climatically responsive sunscreen. There is an honest use of natural materials (terrazzo, teak, concrete, aluminum) pragmatically fitted together without extravagance. The chancery expresses the characteristic American preference for efficiency and straightforwardness.

Described as a “tour de force” and appearing in the popular press and many architectural journals, the New Delhi Chancery together with Stone's other large portfolio of work had a major impact upon architectural education during the 1950s. Among his award-winning projects are the original Museum of Modern Art in New York City, the U.S. Pavilion at the World's Fair in Brussels, and the National Geographic Headquarters and Kennedy Center, both in Washington, D.C. Nehru, one of India's founding leaders, praised the design. Frank Lloyd Wright said it is the only embassy to do credit to the United States and opined it should be called the “Taj Maria” to give credit to Stone's wife and muse. In India the chancery continues to enjoy the consideration afforded historical landmarks, as appreciation for the preservation of modernist architecture grows worldwide.



NEW DELHI, INDIA

U.S. Embassy New Delhi Ambassador's Residence | Roosevelt House



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
John F. Kerry in 2016,
Secretary of State
(2013-2017)*

The Chancery and Ambassador's residence of U.S. Embassy New Delhi, built in the 1950s during the heyday of American foreign building, was the first major embassy building project approved during the administration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961). It was a time when American foreign policy aimed to support free people resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or outside pressures.

The Ambassador's residence was designed by master architect Edward Durell Stone, who captured history and fantasy in a memorable symbol of the United States' commitment to India after its independence. The house is a hallmark example of modernist philosophy by Stone, one of the earliest exponents of the International Style. The residence, similar to the chancery, is a well-proportioned box. The house is a reinforced concrete structure with light-colored terrazzo walls and a cantilevered roof with a substantial overhang that shades the façade. Unlike the chancery, the exterior walls of the residence are solid emphasizing the private nature of the structure. Terrazzo screens that provide natural light are limited

to the exterior corners. John Kenneth Galbraith, the first United States Ambassador to India to live in the house referred to the chancery and residence as "a major architectural triumph." The buildings express the characteristic American preference for efficiency and straightforwardness.

Described as a "tour de force" and appearing in the popular press and many architectural journals, the New Delhi embassy buildings together with Stone's other large portfolio of work had a major impact upon architectural education during the 1950s. In India the buildings continue to enjoy the consideration afforded historical landmarks, as appreciation for the preservation of modernist architecture grows worldwide.



OSLO, NORWAY

U.S. Embassy Oslo Ambassador's Residence | Villa Otium



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Colin Powell in 2004,
Secretary of State
(2001-2005)*

The U.S. Ambassador's residence in Oslo, built in 1911, was the first legation building purchased in Europe by the United States.

Considered one of the most beautiful residences in Norway, it was designed by renowned Norwegian architect Henrik Bull for Hans Andreas Olsen, the Norwegian Consul General at St. Petersburg, and his wife Esther, the niece of Alfred Nobel. The building recalls a Russian palace the family admired. Its grand scale and opulent detail speak of the wealth the family acquired in the petroleum business in Czarist Russia.

The three-story villa of some fifty rooms is stylistically Art Nouveau, or Jugendstil. The asymmetrical yet balanced composition is elegantly designed. Bull, who also designed the National Theater and the Historical Museum in Oslo, was Norway's leading architect at the turn of the nineteenth century. The Villa Otium is his most important residence. A significant number of its furnishings were purchased from Jacques Bodart in Paris.

The surrounding garden preserves the connection of architecture and nature even though it has now been reduced in size by three-quarters. The property is part of the old "Otium," or park meant for leisure, which was itself originally part of Frogner Farm, later named Frogner Park.

Mrs. Olsen sold the property to the United States government in 1924—the \$125,000 price reportedly making it the most expensive U.S. residence abroad at the time and requiring Congressional approval. The Norwegian Preservation Agency has identified the Villa Otium as significant historical architecture.



Photo credit Public Affairs Office, U.S. Embassy Oslo

PARIS, FRANCE

George C. Marshall Center | Hôtel de Talleyrand



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Madeleine Albright, 2001,
Secretary of State
(1997-2001)*

The Hôtel de Talleyrand is an elegant example of eighteenth-century French architecture, as well as a monument to European and American political and social history. The townhouse's neoclassical design represents collaboration between Ange-Jacques Gabriel and Jean-François-Thérèse Chalgrin. Chalgrin, who was also the architect of the Arc de Triomphe, designed the entrance court wall and the interiors. The limestone exterior is a significant component of Gabriel's grand urban scheme for the Place Louis XV, now called the Place de la Concorde. The exterior is protected by Monuments Historiques et Bâtiments de France.

Shortly after the establishment of the First Republic (1792-1804), the townhouse became the residence of the French statesman Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand Périgord, who as Minister of Foreign Affairs implemented Napoleon's foreign policy.

During World War II the Vichy government requisitioned the building, as did the Germans following the fall of France. The façade still has bullet holes purposely left ragged. Purchased in 1950 after the war by the U.S. government from Baron Guy de Rothschild, the building served as European headquarters for the European Recovery Program known as the Marshall Plan (1948-1951), in which seventeen European nations participated. The Marshall Plan was one of the first elements of European integration, as it erased trade barriers

and set up institutions to coordinate the economy on a continental level. The Marshall Plan also institutionalized and legitimized the concept of U.S. foreign aid programs, which have become an integral part of U.S. foreign policy.

The Hôtel de Talleyrand is now home to the offices of a private law firm. The recently restored second floor reception rooms house the George C. Marshall Center and are used for official embassy events such as conferences, receptions, and cultural activities that promote closer ties between the United States and France. The Center also houses a permanent exhibit, The Marshall Plan: The Vision of a Family of Nations, which perpetuates the memory of this exemplary international effort after the war.

"The Marshall Plan produced a relationship between the United States and Europe more wide-ranging and lasting than that which had been established through America's essential role in the winning of the war and the liberation of Europe.... It created innumerable ties of a personal nature between a large number of individuals, officials, businessmen, scholars, and ordinary citizens in many walks of life — ties which had not existed before the war and which were of necessity not always, or entirely, harmonious during the war."

— Lord Roll, Chairman of the OEEC Programmes Committee and member of the Committee of Four that elaborated the final Economic Recovery Program document



PARIS, FRANCE

U.S. Embassy Paris Ambassador's Residence | Hôtel Rothschild



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Condoleezza Rice in 2008,
Secretary of State
(2005-2009)*

No stronger tie between the United States and France exists than the ambassador's residence at No. 41 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, built by an American, Micaela Leonarda Antonia Almonester y Roxas, Baroness de Pontalba, who was born in New Orleans in 1795. An arranged marriage for a merger of fortunes brought her to France at sixteen years of age. Separated in 1831, but loving Paris, she bought on this site in 1836 one of the most famous d'Aguesseau houses in the city. After a visit to New Orleans, the newly divorced baroness returned to Paris in 1838, demolished the house, and commissioned the architect Louis Visconti to design a new one for the site. In 1848 she returned to New Orleans where she hired skilled building contractor Samuel Stewart to renovate the Place d'Armes. Two years later she personally designed and commissioned the construction of two monumental Parisian-Style row house buildings, forming two sides of Place d'Armes and surrounding the Cathedral of Saint Louis her father, Don Andrés Almonester y Roxas, Spanish-born nobleman and philanthropist of New Orleans, had funded on 1794 on the now famous Jackson Square. Her monogram "AP," designed by her youngest son Gaston, is still prominent on the wrought iron balustrades of the city's most celebrated landmarks, which today are known as the Pontalba Buildings.

Baroness de Pontalba returned to Paris and commissioned noted Italian-born French architect

and designer Louis Tullius Joachim Visconti to build the residence known as the Hôtel de Pontalba between 1839 and 1852. In her quest for grandeur she bought the stately home of the Havré family and installed its treasures in her new home. Among the most famous of these were the chinoiserie panels in one room that became the talk of Paris. The nineteenth-century façade is defined by the famous local buff Saint-Maximin limestone, a slate mansard roof with dormers, and œil de bœuf lunettes. Her former husband, who had suffered a physical and mental breakdown, was waiting for her when she returned from New Orleans and asked her to take over and manage his affairs, which she did until her death at the Hôtel de Pontalba in 1874. According to the Baroness' wishes, the residence passed to her sons to provide pensions for her grandchildren.

In 1876 the Pontalba sons sold the residence to Edmond de Rothschild, one of the brothers managing the famous Rothschild family banking empire, who renamed the residence as Hôtel Rothschild. Between 1878 and 1889 major reconstruction took place, with French architect Félix Langlais, the façade was remodeled, roofline raised, and wings extended. The basic original floor plan was maintained and remains today as the entry hall, along with three salons that were adjusted in size but still overlook an expansive garden, one of the largest in Paris. In the main salon, now known as the Samuel Bernard Salon, Rothschild



Photo by Elizabeth Gill Lui

installed intricately carved paneling from the Left Bank home of Jacques-Samuel Bernard.

In 1934 Maurice de Rothschild inherited the residence from his father Edmond, who had sent many of its valuable items to his son James, owner of the palatial Waddesdon Manor in England. World War II disrupted the elder Rothschild's ambitious renovation projects for the residence. The family fled Paris as the Nazis moved in, and Hermann Göring used the mansion for his Luftwaffe officers' club. The residence was never again to be a strictly private home. After the war, the Allies rented it for three years, and in 1948 the United States purchased No. 41 for the U.S. Information Services (USIS). The residence became one of the buildings occupied by individuals working on the Marshall Plan as Averell Harriman began this important endeavor. Prior to this purchase many of the valuable panels in the rooms and other architectural elements had been removed by Maurice de Rothschild.

Restoration undertaken from 1966 to 1970 reclaimed the Hôtel Rothschild's originality and grand residential purpose. Maurice's son Edmond returned the staircase railing and chandelier; some of the removed panels were acquired at auctions and re-installed. Ten of the most valuable chinoiserie panels were found and re-installed in 2000, and the Samuel Bernard Salon finishes were restored in 2006. Historic restoration and curatorial management continue today.

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

U.S. Embassy Prague Chancery | Schönborn Palace



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Madeleine Albright, 2001,
Secretary of State
(1997-2001)*

The U.S. Embassy Prague in the Schönborn Palace has a long and complex history of adaptations to accommodate a wide range of royal, noble, and governmental owners. Today the dominant image dates to 1718, when the Colloredo family renovated the building to the design of the expatriate Italian architect Giovanni Santini.

Five medieval residences and a malthouse had been combined by various owners in the early decades of the seventeenth century. The building's Renaissance past is preserved in the courtyard stair tower, the geometric stucco ceilings, and the entrance portal with its rough stone set in a diamond bossage pattern.

In 1643 Rudolph, Count of Colloredo-Wallsee, purchased the property from Emperor Ferdinand. He carried out a remodeling project that unified the street façade with classical elements, created airy apartment wings behind, and transformed the vineyards on the slope of the hill into a geometrical terrace garden. The garden pavilion, called the Glorietta, was converted from a winepress into an open-air belvedere with majestic views of the city.

Following ownership and renovation by the Colloredos, the Schönborn family inherited the property in 1794. The elegant and romantic English garden is basically unchanged from the first decade of the nineteenth century. During the year before the Republic of Czechoslovakia was proclaimed in 1918, influential international author Franz Kafka occupied two rooms “high and beautiful, red and gold, almost like Versailles” in the Schönborn Palace.

Carl Johann Schönborn sold the property to Chicago plumbing millionaire Richard Crane, Czechoslovakia's first U.S. diplomat. Crane, whose father had introduced Tomas Masaryk—the first president and founder of Czechoslovakia—to President Woodrow Wilson, bought Schönborn Palace with the aid of the Czechoslovak government. In 1924, the United States government purchased the property from Crane for use as an American Legation, paying him the minimal price of \$117,000.

The view to the Schönborn Palace gardens from the Prague Castle has been an important part of the city character for generations. It has been said that the illuminated American flag, flying atop the Glorietta, provided a beacon of inspiration during times of limited political freedom.



PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

U.S. Embassy Prague Ambassador's Residence | Villa Petschek



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Condoleezza Rice in 2008,
Secretary of State
(2005-2009)*

The Neo-Baroque residence of the United States Ambassador in Prague was designed and built between 1924 and 1929 by Otto Petschek, a wealthy banker and industrialist. Petschek, the ultimate armchair architect whose design books are still in the building's library, gathered inspiration from many visits to Versailles. He died in 1934, four years after moving into the house.

In 1938 the Petschek family escaped the Nazis and settled outside Europe. For most of World War II the house was occupied by General Toussaint, the German military governor of Prague, then by Soviet and Czechoslovakian forces. It was first leased for use by the U.S. Ambassador and thereafter acquired by Ambassador Laurence Steinhardt as part of a war reparations settlement on July 20, 1948.

The floor plan of the Villa Petschek is a sweeping crescent embracing a large formal terrace overlooking a manicured lawn and flower garden. Parisian salons, particularly the Musée Carnavalet, heavily influenced Petschek and his prominent Czech architect Max Spielman. The scagliola plaster by Italian artisans imitates luxuriant marbles.

The Villa Petschek's significant modern technology includes electrically operated glass terrace walls that float into the basement, zinc storage rooms for fur coats, and an airy, open-cage elevator. The residence includes guest quarters, two separate apartments, a separate residence, and a staff building on the grounds. Among the notable ambassadors who lived here was the late Shirley Temple Black. After the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, the Villa Petschek was the setting of presidential meetings that led to expanding NATO membership. The building is similar to two others in Prague, also built by the Petschek family, now the Chinese Embassy and part of the Russian Embassy.

During the Cold War the residence was a refuge for dissidents and considered a symbol of American support for the anti-communist movement. Writers, poets, and playwrights were invited to dinners, receptions, and concerts. The sanctuary ended at the gate, however — Václav Havel, a leader of the 1989 anti-communist "Velvet Revolution" and later president of the new Czech Republic, was arrested two blocks from Villa Petschek as he was returning home from one of these events.



ROME, ITALY

U.S. Embassy Rome Chancery | Palazzo Margherita and Twin Villas



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Madeleine Albright in
2001, Secretary of State
(1997-2001)*

The Palazzo Margherita, the U.S. Embassy Rome Chancery office building, was designed by Gaetano Koch and built between 1886 and 1890 for Prince Boncompagni Ludovisi. The building incorporated Cardinal Ludovico Ludovisi's residence, erected in the seventeenth century on a site once owned by Roman historian Gaius Sallustius Crispus. From the first century A.D. to the early fifth century, it was the summer residence, the so-called Horti Sallustiani, of the emperors. The palazzo, later named after Italy's beloved Queen Mother Margherita who took up residence at the beginning of the twentieth century, remained the center of society in Rome until her death in 1926.

During Benito Mussolini's dictatorship (1925-1943), the spacious royal chambers were partitioned into utilitarian offices for the National Fascist Confederation of Farmers.

In 1946, the United States purchased the palazzo to accommodate embassy expansion, using Italian lire war credits against U.S. Army surplus property. The U.S. government had already acquired other royal residences in the adjacent Twin Villas for the first American legation in Rome. Between 1949

and 1952, the palazzo was extensively renovated, restoring rooms to their earlier grandeur, modernizing plumbing and heating systems, and increasing office space.

On the chancery site under an adjacent modern building are 2,000-year-old Roman Imperial fresco paintings preserved in an underground passageway. Conservation work carried out in the late 1990s, supported in part by the World Monuments Fund, reversed biological damage caused by adverse environmental conditions. The chancery's main entrance foyer displays Giambologna's famous sculpture Venus, c. 1583, one of the U.S. government's most prized heritage assets abroad.

Palazzo Margherita is protected by the Italian law for cultural heritage. In a city where history is such a visible part of the landscape and so highly valued, the American diplomatic presence has been enhanced by association with this landmark.



Photo by Mario Guerra

ROME, ITALY

U.S. Embassy Rome Ambassador's Residence | Villa Taverna



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Condoleezza Rice in 2008,
Secretary of State
(2005-2009)*

The fifteenth-century Villa Taverna, built by Cardinal Consalvi, was first rented for use by the U.S. Ambassador in 1933. The Villa and its historical gardens are filled with museum-quality art from antiquity through the Renaissance, to the nineteenth century. Among the important objects in the collection are a Baroque fountain, a strigilated third-century A.D. Roman sarcophagus, a sixteenth-century statue of Pope Gregory XIII, a nineteenth-century statue of David, thirteenth-century cosmatesque altar fragments, ancient Egyptian granite columns with white Luna marble capitals, 300-year-old busts of Roman emperors, and a group of oil paintings.

The property was first mentioned in the tenth century as being in the center of a large farm and vineyard estate owned by the St. Silvester Monastery. Portions of the Villa Taverna probably date to the sixteenth century, when Pope Gregory XIII gave the property to the Jesuit German-Hungarian College. St. Philip Neri worked here, “inspiring honest men with Christian wisdom,” according to a plaque inside. When the Pope dispossessed the Jesuits of their properties in 1773, the papacy reclaimed ownership.

Throughout the 1800s Roman nobility escaped the summer city heat here. In 1824 Pope Leo XII opened the Papal Seminary College, and for the next one hundred years, many illustrious scholars frequented the well-known center of learning. There are Latin inscriptions inside commemorating the visits of Pope Gregory XVI in 1831 and 1833, and of Pope Pius IX in 1863. In 1920 Milanese aristocrat Count Ludovico Taverna purchased the building and, with his architect Carlo Busin Vici, transformed the rustic country farmhouse into an urban villa.

During World War II the property was protected by the Knights of Malta and served as a convalescent home for the Italian military. Returned to the U.S. government in 1944, the villa Taverna and gardens were purchased thereafter on March 6, 1948, from Princess Ida Borromeo-Taverna. The Villa was last remodeled in 1970 by Leone Castelli, but there is a continuing program of art conservation.

The beautiful gardens, as well as the villa, are protected by the Italian law for cultural heritage. To this day, the humanizing dignity of history and art ennobles all who visit and stay at the Villa Taverna—the home of the U.S. Ambassador to Italy.



Photo by Mario Guerra

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

Seoul Old American Legation Site



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property
by Madeleine Albright
in 2001, Secretary of
State (1997-2001) and
by Mike R. Pompeo in
2020, Secretary of State
(Appointed 2018)*

The Seoul Old American Legation, built in 1883 and now used as a guest house, is an exceptionally well-preserved example of traditional Korean residential architecture that illustrates the long history of Korean-American friendship.

Lucius Foote, the first resident envoy from the West to arrive in Korea, purchased this picturesque house one year after its construction in 1884 and it has been in possession of the United States government longer than any other U.S. official residence abroad.

The property was once within the grounds of Kyongun Palace (now the Duksoo Palace). Although the architect and builder are unknown, the use of makse roof end tiles, reserved for royal or state buildings and for ancestral shrines, makes it likely the builder was a master carpenter in the royal service. Other notable architectural features, from early modifications, are the harmonious use of red bricks and glass windows in a fusion of Western style with traditional Korean residential architecture.

The property was sold to Minister Foote in August 1884 by the aristocratic Min family. The U.S. Congress approved funds for the purchase in 1887, and Foote then deeded the property to the United States. A formal deed was issued in 1888 in Seoul, recording the

land as sold "forever." In 1897 a decree by King Kojang granting use of an adjacent road noted that Korea and the United States "have built together in good faith, a friendship most enduring."

Undamaged during World Wars I and II, the Legation has been acknowledged by the Korean people as a symbol of freedom against aggressors.

Collocated on the grounds of the Legation is the U.S. Ambassador's residence completed in April 1976. While a modern example of Korean craftsmanship, the design elements and organization of interior space around an open-air courtyard reflect traditional Korean building practices and construction technologies. The residence was designed by the architectural firm Za Zayong in association with architect Shin Young Hoon and Master Carpenter Lee Kwang Gyu. The project was initiated by Ambassador Phillip C. Habib, who served from 1971-1974 and for whom the residence was named.

In 2020, the Habib House was recognized as a contributing resource within the site of the Seoul Old American Legation, an oasis of green space in the city and protected by two stone statues of haetae, mythical lions, guarding against injustice, disorder, and fire.



STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

U.S. Embassy Stockholm Ambassador's Residence | Villa Åkerlund



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property
by Mike R. Pompeo,
2020, Secretary of State
(Appointed 2018)*

The U.S. Ambassador's residence in Stockholm, built in 1930, is recognized as a model of Nordic Classicism and as the setting for events that shaped the political future of Sweden during World War II. The stately mansion is located within Nobelparken, a public park near the heart of the capital city in the Diplomatstaden neighborhood and is known locally as the Villa Åkerlund. Swedish authorities identified the Villa Åkerlund as a property of extremely high cultural and historical significance and the neighborhood is further protected as a historic preservation zone in Stockholm.

The villa takes its name from its builder, Erik Åkerlund, a publishing executive who owned two of Sweden's largest newspapers in the interwar period. Åkerlund awarded the commission to architect Knut Perno, whose plans for the villa adhered to the tenets of Nordic Classicism, a regional architectural style popular from 1910-1930 and inspired by the classical heritage of ancient Greece and Rome, traditional Nordic buildings, and early Modernism. The construction of the Villa Åkerlund coincides with the waning of the style's influence over Scandinavian design as taste shifted to further refined and streamlined geometries and eventually to pure modernist forms derived from the Bauhaus.

Åkerlund lived in his villa nestled in Nobelparken for a short time. He leased it to the U.S. minister to

Sweden Laurence Steinhardt in 1933-1936 and again to Frederick A. Sterling, a successor of Steinhardt, in 1940. After the United States entered World War II, the minister's residence was used as wartime office space for American diplomatic and military personnel stationed in Stockholm, and the U.S. government purchased the Villa Åkerlund property in 1942. In this year President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Office of War Information (OWI) and the Stockholm office operated from the Villa Åkerlund.

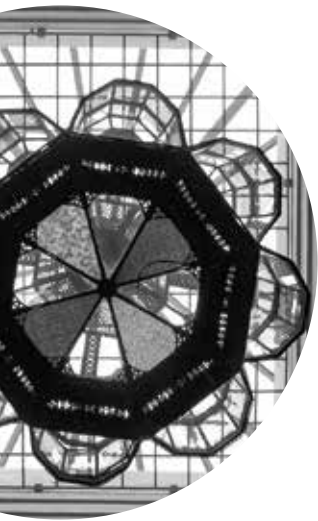
From the ground floor of the villa, which officially operated as the Press Section of the American Legation, OWI countered propaganda from Nazi Germany and offered Swedish citizens information on the Allied war effort through feature materials, editorials, photographs, radio broadcasts, and newsreels and through the exchange of information through foreign legations. From the Villa Åkerlund, OWI succeeded in breaking German control over the news outlets at a crucial time in the war.

In 1947 the U.S. legation was elevated to embassy status and H. Freeman Matthews was appointed the first U.S. Ambassador to Sweden. The Villa Åkerlund remains in service as the ambassador's residence, classical yet modern in its architectural style and in diplomatic history for its association with the vital voice of American democracy in World War II.



TANGIER, MOROCCO

Tangier Old Legation



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Madeleine Albright, 2001,
Secretary of State
(1997-2001)*

Tangier Old Legation, the first property acquired by the United States government for a diplomatic mission, was presented in 1821 as a gift to the American people by Sultan Moulay Suliman. His generosity was inspired by the success of the Moroccan-American Treaty of Friendship. This 1786 treaty, with John Adams and Thomas Jefferson as signatories, was renegotiated by John Mulloony in 1836. The treaty, still in force today, is among the most durable in American history. The Legation served as a diplomatic post for a record 140 years. Of special significance in the building's history is the Cape Spartel Lighthouse Treaty of 1860, which was negotiated there. The treaty is considered to be the forerunner of the League of Nations and United Nations because it speaks to broad cooperation within international law.

Located within the ancient city walls, the original structure, an eighteenth-century stone building, was gradually incorporated into an enlarged complex surrounding a picturesque courtyard. United States Minister Maxwell Blake undertook an ambitious program of restoration and renovation from 1927 to 1931. He constructed a Moorish pavilion overlooking a new courtyard, which incorporated antique doors and tiles from different areas of Morocco. Blake also added handsome eighteenth-century lanterns, iron grillwork,

and marble mantelpieces. The result is a harmonious blend of Moorish and Spanish architectural traditions. World War II activity included a major U.S. military contribution to the Allied presence in Africa at the strategic entrance to the Mediterranean. The property was used by the then newly formed Office of Strategic Services, and it was the locus of military planning operations in North Africa that led to the landings in France and Italy. When the Consulate General moved in 1961, the property became an Arabic language school.

Since 1976 the compound has been leased to the Tangier-American Legation Museum Society, a public non-profit organization established by a group of American citizens. The museum maintains a collection of engravings, maps, rare books, aquatints, paintings, and other artifacts depicting events in the history of over 180 years of U.S.-Moroccan diplomatic relations. The Legation was listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places on January 8, 1981. United States Secretary of the Interior James G. Watt subsequently designated it a National Historic Landmark on December 17, 1982. This listing was the first such designation in a foreign country.



Photo by Elizabeth Gill Lui

TIRANA, ALBANIA

U.S. Embassy Tirana Chancery



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Colin Powell in 2004,
Secretary of State
(2001-2005)*

Built in 1929, U.S. Embassy Tirana is reported to be one of the first American legations constructed under the 1926 Porter Legislation. This legislation established the State Department's ability to provide U.S. government buildings, embassies, and consular buildings in foreign countries. Originally the U.S. Ambassador also resided here, conducting business in a domestic setting.

Architects Nathan C. Wyeth and Francis P. Sullivan were well-respected Washington, D.C., architects known for their stately Connecticut Avenue townhouses built for wealthy clients. Wyeth (1870–1963) had been trained in Paris, receiving a diploma from the École des Beaux-Arts at the turn of the century. Wyeth also designed the first Oval Office in the White House, for William Howard Taft in 1909. Inspiration for the Tirana residence was drawn from eighteenth-century Virginia Tidewater plantation homes such as Mount Vernon.

Following World War II, Albania focused inward and, during the Cold War, the house and quiet landscaped gardens were rented to the Italian Ambassador. Diplomatic relations between the United States and Albania were reestablished on March 15, 1991, after a break of fifty-two years. The U.S. Embassy in Tirana was opened on October 1, 1991. At the 1991

historic ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries, then Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs Raymond G.H. Seitz said, "The relationship between our countries dates back to the early years of this century, when President [Woodrow] Wilson extended American support for the young Albanian state. The relationship was never forgotten by the many thousands of Americans of Albanian origin ... who kept contact with their homeland over all these years."

After recent remodeling and new additions aimed at preserving the property's historical character, the once simple home is fitted out as an efficient and unique office space. Specially designed furniture and other antiques have been refurbished and reused, creating understated yet pragmatic elegance.



TOKYO, JAPAN

U.S. Embassy Tokyo Ambassador's Residence



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Madeleine Albright in
2001, Secretary of State
(1997-2001)*

The residence of the United States Ambassador to Japan, with its spacious reception rooms and large garden, offers serenity in the center of downtown Tokyo.

In 1925 the U.S. government acquired the estate of Prince Hirokuni Ito, an adopted son of Japan's first Prime Minister Hirobumi Ito, from the Japanese government for \$115,000. Two years earlier, an earthquake and subsequent fire had destroyed the prince's residence along with the adjacent U.S. Embassy buildings.

American H. Van Buren Magonigle and Czech-born Antonin Raymond designed the residence along with the chancery. Raymond had come to Tokyo to work for noted American architect Frank Lloyd Wright on the Imperial Hotel in 1919. Structural Engineer Tachu Naito from the University of Tokyo, well known for his work on the Tokyo Tower, advised on seismic protection and fire prevention. The residence is a blend of Moorish and Asian stylistic influences with colonial overtones. Raymond redesigned the garden and driveway to obtain the northwest entrance prescribed by the Asian philosophy of Wind and Water for well-being. The highly ornamented exterior is reminiscent of Wright's influence — the white stucco walls are enhanced with decorative bands of precast stucco as well as colorful mosaic tiles.

This residence was among the first houses built by the United States specifically as an ambassador's residence, and it was one of the first projects of the new Foreign Services Building Commission set up by President Herbert Hoover. Dubbed "Hoover's Folly" at the time, the chancery and the residence, with imported walnut wall panels and Vermont marble flooring, were completed during the Great Depression at a cost of \$1.25 million.

During World War II the compound was under the protection of the Swiss government. From 1945 to 1951 General Douglas MacArthur lived in what his staff called "The Big House." On September 27, 1945, Emperor Hirohito came to the residence to speak with MacArthur. The next day a photograph of their meeting in the living room was printed on the front page of every paper in Japan. It conveyed the new, subordinate position of Japan's "living god." Hirohito had renounced his divinity, forever altering how the Imperial family was viewed in Japan. This event is only one of many that exemplify the significance of the residence in American diplomatic history.



TRIPOLI, LIBYA

The American Cemetery



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Hillary R. Clinton in 2010,
Secretary of State
(2009-2013)*

The Protestant Cemetery in Tripoli, also known as the American Cemetery, holds the remains of heroes from the Barbary Wars (1801–1805), the United States' first overseas war. In September 1804, Lieutenant Richard Somers loaded his ship, the USS *Intrepid*, with explosives and set out to destroy the Bey of Tripoli's fleet and batter the castle's walls. His objective was to rescue the crew of the captured USS *Philadelphia*, which the Bey had taken as war prisoners. Somers and twelve volunteers perished in a massive explosion several hundred yards from their target.

With the Bey of Tripoli's permission, the remains of five sailors, which washed up on the shores of Tripoli, were interred at the first Christian cemetery in Tripoli. In 1830, the people of Tripoli moved these remains to the present cemetery.

Today this cemetery is known as the American Cemetery. American and European diplomats established this cemetery to bury members of Tripoli's nineteenth-century diplomatic corps. There are currently fifty-two other graves and tombs in the enclosure, which contain the remains of diplomats and foreign visitors who passed through nineteenth-century Libya. Several U.S. diplomats and their family members are buried here.

The 2004 Normalization Agreement between the United States and Libya established the cemetery as United States property, with the Libyan government agreeing to provide legal protection for the site. In 2010, Libya's Department of Antiquities began restoration of the site in consultation with the U.S. Embassy. The American Cemetery is an important symbol of the long history between the two countries. As Article 11 of the Treaty of Tripoli signed by President John Adams on June 10, 1797, famously states, the United States of America "has in itself no character of enmity against the laws, religion, or tranquility of Mussulmen [Muslims]," sentiments which have important meaning in today's world as well as when they were written.



VIENNA, AUSTRIA

U.S. Embassy Vienna Chancery | Consular Academy



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
John F. Kerry in 2016,
Secretary of State
(2013-2017)*

Boltzmanngasse 16 was constructed from 1902-1904 to house the Habsburg monarchy's Austrian Consular Academy. Ludwig Baumann, a favorite of the heir to the throne, Franz Ferdinand, was the architect. Baumann's work was characterized by neo-Baroque works that reached back to the most glorious years of the monarchy. The Baroque style was a much-loved style of Empress Maria Theresia in the eighteenth century. The main entrance of the Academy is topped by baroque dome-shaped roofs and two allegorical reliefs. Above the main entrance are the coats of arms of Austria and Hungary, surrounded by the chain of the Order of the Golden Fleece.

The history of Boltzmanngasse 16 has always been entwined with diplomacy. Much like our own Foreign Service Institute, the Consular Academy trained students from Austria, Europe, and other parts of the world in foreign languages and subjects necessary for diplomatic service. The Academy continued training diplomats until 1942, when it was closed so that the building could be used as a field hospital during World War II. In August 1945, the United States forces took residence in the building, and the United States government purchased the building soon after for use as its Legation. The Legation was upgraded to an Embassy in 1951.

Because Austria was made a neutral country following World War II, the building was a natural place for contacts between the east and west during the Cold War. Plaques outside the main conference room note that it was the location for the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) from 1970 to 1972, which culminated in the signing of a Treaty and an Agreement in 1972. It was used again for the SALT Two Summit in 1979 when President Jimmy Carter and Premier Leonid Brezhnev met before signing the SALT Two Treaty.

The U.S. Embassy Vienna Chancery stands today as a symbol of the close ties between Austria and the United States.



WASHINGTON, D.C.

President's Guest House | Blair House



*Contribution to
The Secretary of State's
Register of Culturally
Significant Property by
Hillary R. Clinton in 2010,
Secretary of State
(2009-2013)*

Quietly facing the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue, a group of unobtrusive townhouses stands ready to welcome the nation's most important visitors. The President's Guest House, as the buildings owned by the General Services Administration are collectively known, operates under the stewardship of the U.S. Department of State's Office of the Chief of Protocol and accommodates official guests of the United States government visiting Washington. Four interconnected, nineteenth-century houses comprise the property: Blair House, Lee House, and 700 and 704 Jackson Place.

Since its 1824 construction, Blair House has played a prominent role in Washington politics. It derives its name from its second owner, Francis Preston Blair, who purchased it in 1837. Blair, editor of the local *Globe* newspaper, was an influential advisor to Andrew Jackson and several later presidents. In 1852 he built a neighboring home for his daughter Elizabeth and her husband, Samuel Phillips Lee. The adjacent Jackson Place properties were built in 1860. The government acquired all the property in 1942 and transformed it into the president's official guest house.

Several momentous events have occurred in Blair House. On April 18, 1861, Francis Preston Blair invited Robert E. Lee to Blair House and presented him with Abraham Lincoln's request that Lee command the Union army. Lee declined and, following Virginia's secession, resigned from the U.S. Army and departed for Richmond to command his state's forces.

When the White House underwent renovations from 1948 to 1952, Harry Truman and his family resided at Blair House. The room now known as the Truman Study was the president's office. Weekly cabinet meetings in the Lee Dining Room carried out his Fair Deal program, recognized the new state of Israel, and desegregated the U.S. armed forces. The house was officially designated as the President's Guest House in 1957.

The President's Guest House consists of four, visually distinct buildings that have been unified on the interior to serve the needs of visiting dignitaries. At over 60,000 square feet, the property contains over 120 rooms, including fifteen guest bedrooms and thirty-five bathrooms, among other functional spaces. The property has undergone numerous exterior and interior alterations since its original construction, yet retains its historic appeal.

In the years spanning 1982 to 1988, Congress recognized Blair House's historic and architectural significance by appropriating \$9.7 million for the property's renovation and structural additions. The floor plans of the four houses were joined seamlessly and a two-story garden wing was added. The garden reception room is clad in Ohio sandstone that is stylistically similar to the masonry of the White House. Private citizens joined the Blair House renovation effort, donating \$5 million for interior improvements and redecoration. Designers used elements from the houses' many eras to unify interior spaces and create a coherent plan.



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Tangier Old Legation

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